Amendments to the Specification

On page 11 of the specification of the subject application, please replace paragraphs 1 and 2 as follows:

The automated telephone calling system 14 may also include a network interface that facilitates receipt of audio information by any of a variety of networks, such as telephone networks, cellular telephone networks, the Web, Internet, local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), private networks, virtual private networks (VPNs), intranets, extranets, wireless networks, and the like, or some combination thereof. The system 10 12 may be accessible by any one or more of a variety of input devices capable of communicating audio information. Such devices may include, but are not limited to, a standard telephone or cellular telephone 18.

Automated telephone calling system 14 includes a database of persons to whom the system 12 is capable of initiating telephone calls, each such person being referred to hereinafter as the "target person", a telephone number associated with each person and a recorded data file that includes the target person's name. Such automated telephone calling devices are known in the art. As is described below, the automated telephone calling system 14 is capable of initiating a telephone call to a target person and playing a prerecorded greeting prompt asking for the target person. The system 14 then interacts with speech recognition system 16 to analyze responses received from the person on telephone 18.

On page 13 of the specification of the subject application, please replace the last paragraph starting on that page and continuing on page 14 as follows:

Once the speech recognition system 16 has determined that an answering machine has answered the telephone 18, at step 38 or 40, the greeting prompt is interrupted, step 41, and a prerecorded answering machine message prompt is played to the answering machine, step 42. As is the case during the playing of the greeting prompt, if, during the playing of the answering machine message prompt, a spoken response is detected which is greater than the predetermined

time, step 44, or a beep tone is detected, step 46, the answering machine message prompt is interrupted and replayed, step 42. This insures that the answering machine message prompt is properly aligned with the answering machine recorder. When the answering machine message prompt has been played in its entirety without the detection of a spoken response, step 44 or a beep tone, step 46, the process ends, step 48.